

Forum

Course Droppings

As cutback fever sets in, we as students are going to become painfully aware that we will be paying more for less.

One topic that hits home with many of us is course-dropping deadlines. It seems the deans and other concerned administrators want to take away the luxury we now have of waiting until after the midterm to drop the course.

Just what the doctor ordered. How many of you hold your breath until the midterm marks come in? I would bet lots of us do. Midterms provide valuable feedback on how a student is progressing in a given course. In many cases you have no idea of how you're doing in a course until you're actually tested on its subject matter. In a class of say 175 students, what other form of feedback is there? Not much.

If the university pulls drop deadlines back to before the time midterms are written, they may save themselves a few dollars and a few headaches. Or will they?

I don't think so. If a student is forced to make the decision before the exam is written, he/she will probably drop an iffy course to be on the safe side. I mean, if you had no inkling of how you were grasping the course material and the dropping deadline is suddenly upon you, you'd be very tempted to drop the course.

Many times you think you're doing well and then the midterm tells you you're not, and vice versa. I guess students will be forced to gamble if GFC passes the registrar's proposal to change the deadlines. At least GFC will wait until the fall to debate this one.

If you're concerned and want to voice a protest, get in touch with your General Faculties Council student representative in September and tell them you care. This is too important to ignore!

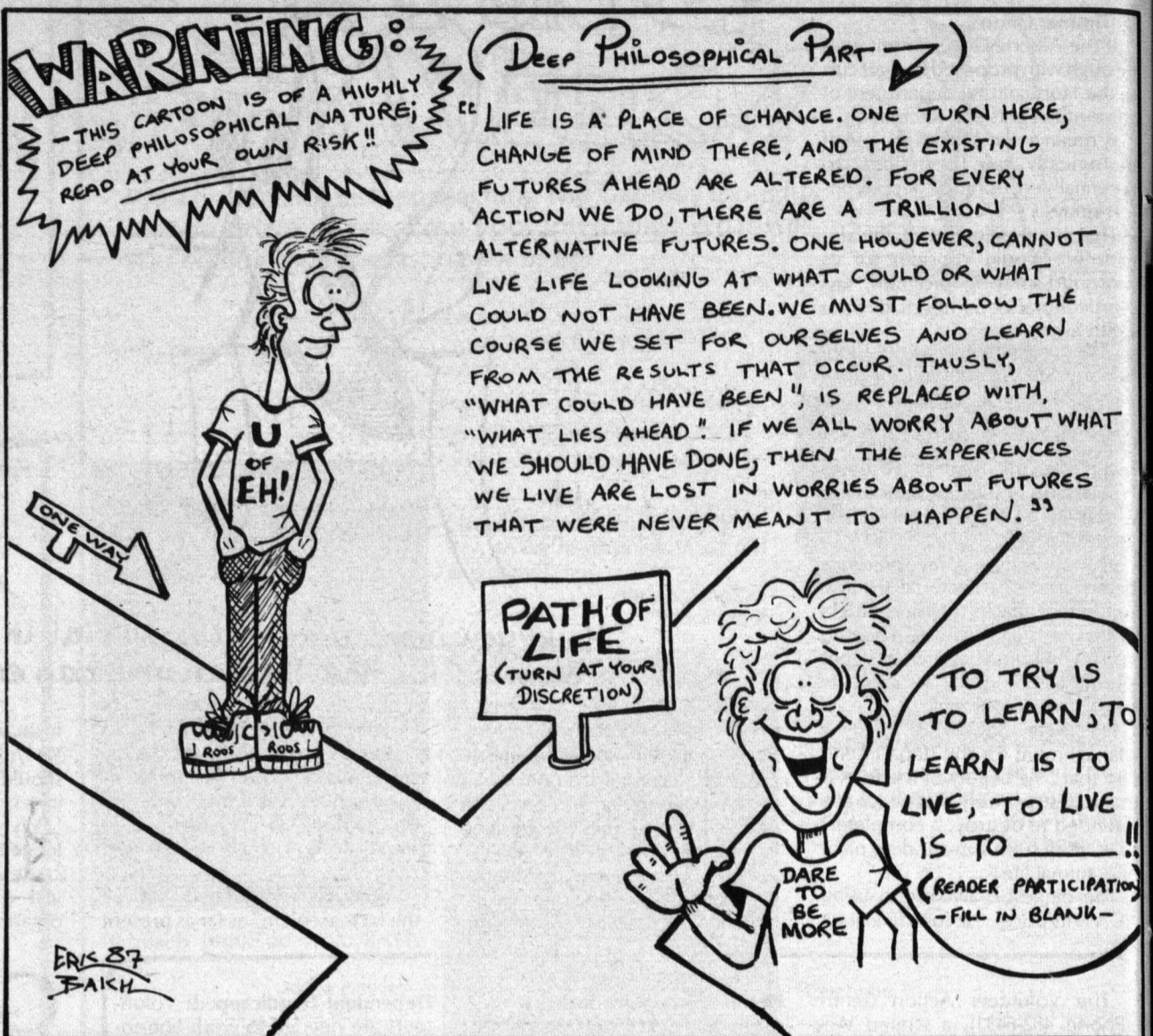
Greg Halinda

The Gateway

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Letters...

Could you pull the trigger?

To the Editor:

The death penalty has returned to the public eye and I'm concerned that we may once again live in a country that legally kills human beings in the name of justice. In spite of abundant evidence which suggests that the death penalty does not deter murders and that executing convicted murderers does not save money (quite a barbaric reason to murder someone), a large majority of Canadians are in favour of legal executions. If people are aware of these statistics, I see only one reason for the death penalty: Revenge.

If people are willing to condone their government's legalized murders, then I suspect that these people should ask themselves if they would be willing to be the executioner. If you allow your government to kill people, then you should be willing to do the killing. After all, we the people are the government. This is our country, our laws. You cannot pass on the responsibility. It is our responsibility. Next time you are telling someone you are in favour of legalized murder, ask yourself if you could pull the trigger and if you could, are you any better than the person you are executing?

Scott Robertson
 Faculty of Graduate Studies I

Typing services ruin papers...

To the Editor:

I really feel bad about doing this, but I feel it has to be done. I am a second year Political Science student and while I am not the best student in my class, I do try very hard.

As everyone knows, "The Paper Plague" is upon us and for those of us who were not smart enough to learn to type in high school the typing services on campus are very popular to us.

There is one typing service in particular that I personally am upset with. I believe my complaint is justified and may be shared by others.

Here is the situation. I wrote a paper and handed it in to be typed on Thursday so that I could pick it up on Monday at 8 a.m. On Monday at 8:30 a.m. I came in to pick it up, it was just being typed. When it was finally typed I started to proofread — I got a real big surprise. Approximately 140 typing errors. Oh well you say. Yeah right.

I marked the errors, handed them back in on Tuesday (I had things to do on Monday), the corrections were made by Wednesday, and I was then told that if I found more errors I would be charged for the time to fix them. There were

Note: Letters may now be dropped off in HUB at the S.U. Info booth.

errors.

When I asked the typist why all the errors she said that she was "making a silk purse out of a sow's ear" and that I was specifically asked to write it in ink and double spaced. Well I did do that and I didn't. The first 2½ pages were as she asked but it didn't seem to make a difference (there were 6 errors in those pages).

Well what can you do? I can now learn to type and accordingly avoid ruined papers.

William Taylor
 Pol. Sci. II

Courageous young mothers...

To the Editor:

Through this last year of school, I have met a lot of young mothers who have children and are attending university. I feel that all young mothers attending school should be congratulated on their courage and emotional strength. I realize the many difficulties that one encounters upon finding out that she is pregnant. She must deal with facing her parents, peers and friends and must really think about her future. I'm sure one's first thought was abortion, a quick way to get rid of the problem. But, these women decided against the option and chose to have the child and furthermore, continue with their education. It takes an enormous amount of courage and patience to be a mother and a student at the same time. Even though some people may feel it was one's fault to get pregnant and she must deal with it somehow, every young mother should be acknowledged on her wonderful courage.

So, to all you young courageous mothers out there, congratulations and hang in there! This year is almost over...

Janice Stefancik
 Science I

A Letter to Keri...

Before I moved out west, I used to live in Montreal. There are still a few great memories from Montreal, like the time my brother threw a party and only three girls showed up. There were nineteen guys; I don't know what happened in the basement, but it sure didn't look good. That was the same party he played "Louie, Louie" by Paul Revere and the Raiders instead of the Kingsmen. He'll be ticked off at me for writing this but at least I didn't write about what he did on the trip to Cape Cod. That was really bad. Another fond memory was Bernard the cat, who looked like a groomed Bill the Cat with Marty Feldman (i.e. Joey Cairo) eyes. Bernard was perhaps the coolest cat around at the time. He had a very touching method for getting food. He would look at you with his big, soft, sad eyes and then look at the fridge and then back at you. He's probably dead now.

Marc Simao

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 400 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Anonymity is allowed at the discretion of the Editor. Submission deadlines for Tuesday and Thursday issues are noon the preceding day. Submit letters to room 282 SUB. Letters do not necessarily reflect the view of The Gateway.